







CARVER COURAGE





JULY 1, 2019 TO June 30, 2020

Carver Mission: To close opportunity gaps for all children and to ensure they graduate high school on time and ready for college and careers.

2,293 Students Served in 31 Programs

1,384 Norwalk Public Schools (NPS) K-12 students between summer 2019 (8 programs, 625 students) and after school (12 programs, 910 students), plus 724 After the Bell before and after school elementary students, plus 89 non-NPS summer students. Plus 37 Side By Side Charter School and 159 Classical Studies Magnet Academy (Bridgeport) after school students.

19 Schools

In addition to the George Washington Carver Community Center, Carver served K-12 students in 17 NPS schools, in Side By Side Charter School, and in Bridgeport's Classical Studies Magnet Academy.

100% Graduate High School and 100% Enroll into College

Since 2005, 100% of Carver seniors have graduated high school on time. 100% of Carver seniors enrolled in college immediately following graduation in 2019 and 2020.

85% Graduate College within Six Years

From 2010-2020, 85% of Carver students graduated with a Baccalaureate degree within six years. Nationally, just 11 percent of students from the lowest-income quartile earn bachelor's degrees within six years (the commonly used indicator of college success), compared with 58 percent of students who come from the highest-income group.



Our Message To Our Youth When The Schools Closed In March 2020

You are used to testing, but not like this one. Your world, already so virtual, just became even more so. But you also need to appreciate that we are now witnessing Norwalk at its best.

Our mayor and superintendent of schools are confronting the dread and uncertainty of this global health crisis with purpose and decisive action. And just like those of us at Carver who know and deeply respect your abilities, our city leaders also have every confidence in your physical and moral courage to endure.

While we will all become impatient long before the all-clear signal, we are sure that Norwalk will serve as a national model for perseverance and civility. This invisible virus will make visible your true strengths. It will reveal the ways in which we all can and will work together to achieve the greatest good.

The farther we remove ourselves from each other in our effort to keep everyone safe, the more we will need each other. Mutual distancing need never become a mindset. Our way of living may be upended, but not our commitment to each other's well-being.

To mitigate we must also collaborate to allow our health-care system to cope and keep pace. You will cook at home, and you will study your schoolwork at home, but we also know you will reach out more, at least on the phone and through email, online school platforms, and social media.

You need to stay safe, but we are confident that as we all look back on this time of crisis, it will have been a time when you and all of Norwalk drew one another closer in a lasting way.

While disorienting in the present, we trust that this crisis will prove to be reorienting for our community. When this is all over, we will be all that much stronger, and our confidence in your many strengths and abilities will be all the more overflowing.

We created this interactive/searchable CourageMosaic.com website at the onset of the pandemic to give our community the opportunity to share images and messages about Courage. This Courage mosaic continues with our Child of America gala website, CelebratingCourage.org. Our gala will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2021.



The Year of the Pandemic

This has been a defining moment for the Carver community as we revisited the principles and values that have guided us since our founding in 1938. The strength of our community is in our ability to support each other.

- The Carver Community Center served as a primary distribution point for free daily meals provided by Norwalk Public Schools until the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Our students' daytime teachers and other Carver staff virtually sustained through June 2020 our after school academic, enrichment and wellness programming for our students in all our K-12 Norwalk schools, Side By Side Charter School, the Carver Community Center, and the Classical Studies Magnet Academy in Bridgeport.
- Carver provided "learning pods" for NPS students at the Carver Community Center on virtual learning days under the supervision of NPS paraprofessionals. This program served families of essential workers and those who did not have the means for private tutors or childcare during the workday.
- Carver provided financial and practical assistance to distressed Carver families.
- While Carver was forced to cancel its annual Spring Break College Tour for the first time in 50 years, Vivian Reeves,

- a New Canaan High School volunteer, created an online database linking our students to the nation's colleges and universities that offer 360-degree video tours of their campuses. Hearst featured this "Everyday Hero" story in all of its Connecticut publications.
- Carver summer programming continued in July/August 2020, abiding by all CDC and state health rules.
- Carver was among the first class of inductees into the Center for Nonprofit Excellence Hall of Fame at the Fairfield County's Community Foundation.
- FIRST Lego League, an international robotics community, awarded twelve grants to address inequities in access to science and technology and Carver was one of three grantees to receive the largest financial award.
- The Bridgeport Rescue Mission added 150 turkeys and all the trimmings to our annual Thanksgiving food drive and students from St. Luke's School helped with all the lifting and organizing.
- Each December, the Rowayton Fire Department collects
 a fire truck full of toys and other gifts for Carver kids.
 Campbell's Snacks and many other donors added to this
 holiday joy. Carver's Teen Center Manager, Tremain Gilmore,
 organized another massive gift-giving event at the Carver
 Community Center to which GE Capital made an especially
 significant contribution.







Dear Mission Partners,

Thank you for helping us create new sanctuaries of learning and support for our students that the pandemic called forth. This past year we have seen how Courage gave rise to daring ideas and meaningful action.

Thank you for honoring the hard work and courage of our students. We join together with our families, teachers, school administrators, advocates, and so many others who are helping to sustain our thriving community.

Your interest and support illuminates the farthest horizons of our students' hopes that are shaped by our caring and action. This past year we found that Carver's after-school, summer, and community initiatives are not a luxury. They remain a vital necessity of our students' lives. Carver helps to form the quality of the light within which our youth predicate their hopes and dreams.

Long before Dr. King proclaimed, "I have seen the mountaintop!" mountains have been among our richest nature-drawn metaphors for making sense of our lives, values, and challenges. But we have no need for metaphors to make sense of this past year when we have countless examples of courage to recall and celebrate.

Later in this report you will see a list of our financial donors. I'd like to acknowledge a few among many friends and partners who contribute in other ways.

Carver volunteer Pat O'Toole knitted hats and mittens for our kids. Drew Seath and his friends organized the Rowayton Racketlon in which participants played paddle tennis, pickleball, badminton and ping pong for the benefit of Carver kids. Organized by the Community Fund of Darien, Darien youth gathered PPE supplies for Carver students.

Despite the pandemic, our longtime partner the Maritime Aquarium found innovative ways to continue to inspire and educate our students. I am honored that they recently elected me to its Board of Directors.

I am extremely happy for Jerry Craft, one of Carver's longtime teachers and a New York Times bestselling author and illustrator, whose book, "New Kid," was the winner of the 2020 John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature. It is the first graphic novel in the Newbery's nearly 100-year history to receive the award. Craft is only the fifth African American author to receive this coveted prize.

Carver heroes represent the diverse fabric of our community and our country. They come from every ethnicity and background and income level. Our community expands and grows stronger because of the courage of our students, families, staff, volunteers and donors. Regardless of the challenges, though they be many, we can help open new worlds of opportunity for our young people.

Sincerely,

Novelette Peterkin Chief Executive Officer





Dear Carver Community,

As Carver's Board President, I write to thank you for your support of the young people whom we serve.

Under Novelette's leadership, Carver has continued to meet the needs of these young people despite the very challenging environment brought on by the coronavirus. Each of our Board members is deeply committed to Carver's mission and to helping our students navigate through these unprecedented times.

The schools we partner with, along with all other institutions of learning, are in the national spotlight with the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Connecticut's own Miguel Cardona for the post of Education Secretary. Mr. Cardona was a teacher and principal before becoming our state's Education Commissioner.

All of us will have important roles to play in the coming months as we determine the appropriate strategies for education in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a result, our Board is re-examining our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. We expect to strengthen both our vision and mission to enable Carver to become an even stronger influence in our community. Innovation will bring significant changes to how our young people learn and Carver is committed to being at the forefront of this new normal through the delivery of enhanced programs within our partnership with the Norwalk Public Schools District.

March 2020 will forever be known as the time all the world's schools closed their doors. As we pivoted to remote learning, parents who had relied on schools as an anchor around which they organized their daily schedule faced the shock of life

without in-person school. Carver has always known what powerful allies parents are in their children's learning. With the pandemic's dire consequences hitting the most vulnerable families the hardest, parent engagement and social and emotional learning has remained among Carver's priorities.

The remarkable words of Amanda Gorman are an inspiration for all of us. "Where can we find light in this never-ending shade?" America's 22-year-old youth poet laureate asked as she spoke at the inauguration of the 46th president of the United States. "And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it," Gorman reminded us. That light is us. "Somehow, we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished," she said. "There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it." Carver youth are as optimistic and brave as Amanda Gorman.

Thank you for your attention, caring, and support.

Sincerely,

Philip Butterfield





2020-2021 Board of Directors

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Community

Carver conducts many community initiatives throughout the year, but we focus on one happening in this report: the naming of our refurbished gymnasium after our beloved friend, Dick Whitcomb.

Dick Whitcomb has been a stalwart and inspirational Carver volunteer, donor, advocate and board member for decades! Without question, Carver's year after year growth and successful programming would not have been possible without Dick's leadership in so many ways and times.

As a celebrated athlete throughout his high school and college years, and as a coach for many sports at St. Luke's School, it is most fitting that the Carver Board of Directors named the refurbished Carver Community Center gymnasium after Richard Whitcomb.

Since its opening in 1975, the Carver Community Center has served Norwalk through events and programs that build the mind, body, and spirit for all. The most vital space in the community center is the gymnasium where events ranging from basketball tournaments to career fairs and even memorial services have met the many needs of Norwalk youth and families.

This effort to deepen Carver's impact in our community is a top priority and also a fitting opportunity to recognize the tremendous example and countless contributions Dick Whitcomb has made and is making to advance the Carver mission.

In 1961, Dick Whitcomb began preparing students for success in life at St. Luke's School in New Canaan. In 1980, after serving as the school's athletic director and football coach, Dick was named Headmaster and was pivotal in the growth and stature of the school where he remains Headmaster Emeritus. In 2002, Dick retired and then founded a scholarship fund to enable economically challenged students, many from Norwalk, an opportunity to attend St. Luke's School.

In late 2010, Dick founded the Richard and Barbara Whitcomb Foundation to extend his philanthropy to many others, especially to the Carver community. For many years, Dick's unofficial office has been the conference room in the Carver Community Center. In addition to general operating support, Dick is especially committed to financially supporting Carver's college scholarship fund.

Carver awarded Dick its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013, Carver's 75th anniversary year.





College Scholarships

However difficult getting into college may be, that may be the easiest part of the transition to college life. That is why we support our students during their college years. Staying in college is becoming increasingly challenging for Carver's first-generation college students as they confront steep hurdles, including financial hardships and the debt from student loans that can eventually undermine the promise of economic stability after they graduate.

In June 2020, 34 Carver high school graduates and current college students received \$130,000 in Carver scholarship awards. Our students, scholarship donors, scholarship essay readers, and Carver staff celebrated the awards ceremony via Zoom, with Carver's board chair, Phil Butterfield, and Carver CEO, Novelette Peterkin, presiding.

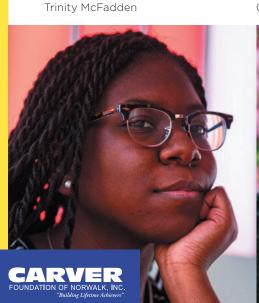
One of the highlights of the event was when we announced there would be two winners of the annual DeAndre Parks \$5,000 scholarship, which is traditionally given to the single student with the highest GPA. And then we doubled again the amount awarded! DeAndre Parks joined everyone for the ZOOM

event and announced that he was matching Carver's financial commitment this year, making the award \$10,000 for each of the two students.

Mr. Parks is a Senior Analyst at Western Asset Management Co. LLC in California. Mr. Parks was previously an Analyst at Citigroup Asset Management when he served on the Carver Board of Directors.

This year, Trinity McFadden (a college student and past award recipient) was joined by high school graduate Louis Guaillas as earning the highest GPAs for the year.

Three Carver students attended the 2019 Jeter's Leaders Leadership Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, accompanied by Carver CEO, Novelette Peterkin, with more than 240 high school students from across the country.



Caira Ward





Summer 2021

Access to summer enrichment opportunities will be more important than ever.

During a normal year, children often experience "summer slide," or several months of learning loss over the break. When others might be building their skills over the summer months, Carver students may lose two months of math skills, or two to three months of reading. We know that when kids are not engaged, they are not building those skills, and this year we've had even less engagement than ever.

Carver Summer Enrichment Camp for Students from Kindergarten to 5th Grade at the Carver Community Center, Columbus Magnet School, and at Side By Side Charter School

Opportunities (pandemic-permitting) range from swimming to project-based and hands-on personalized learning to prepare students for the coming school year. Our summer literacy and math programs are facilitated by certified teachers. Computer Adaptive (CAT) interventions address individual strengths and weaknesses.

Age-appropriate field trips reinforcing summer learning include trips to the Peabody Museum, CT Science Center, Discovery Museum, NBC Studio Tour, Stamford Nature Center, Beardsley Zoo, Bishop Orchards, New York Botanical Gardens and Maritime Aquarium. Fun outings also included trips to the beach, Lake Compounce, Playland, My Three Sons, and New Roc City.

Summer Transition Programs for Rising 6th and 9th Graders Entering Norwalk's Four Public Middle Schools and Two Public High Schools in the Fall Carver summer transition programs are designed to help incoming 6th and 9th-grade students transition into Norwalk's four middle and two high schools. Programming includes individualized instruction, parental involvement, small group learning experiences, diverse enrichment activities, free transportation, and full-day activities benefiting working families. Students learn the basics of navigating their respective new schools. The incoming 9th graders learn how to read a transcript, understand graduation requirements, earn credits in courses, and look ahead to potential career options. Students use Naviance/ Family Connection to develop an individualized Student Success Plan to identify needs and interests and to set future goals.



After School

All our programs help students meet state and local standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children. Carver is honored to consistently meet the high standards required to sustain the partnerships and funding that make these many programs possible.

Elementary School Programs

Carver provides the After the Bell before- and after-school program in nine Norwalk public elementary schools and in the Carver Community Center. Carver provides the 5th Grade Scholars Transition Program in Brookside, Kendall, Naramake and Tracey Elementary Schools. This innovative program is funded by 21st Century Community Learning Centers, a highly competitive federal grant program that supports academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children.

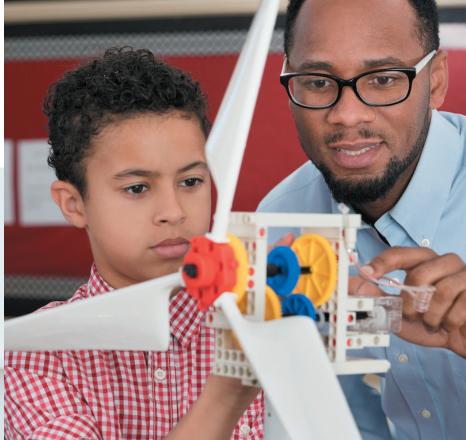
Middle and High Schools

Carver's after-school Youth Development Program (YDP) provides middle and high school students (a minimum 2.5 hours per day, not including field trips, college tours, career fairs.

etc.) with a variety of learning opportunities that compliment and enrich, but do not duplicate, school day instruction. YDP Program Coordinators are certified teachers within each school and Carver provides free transportation for all students.

Carver after-school programs operate in Side By Side Charter School, the Carver Community Center, in the Norwalk Public Schools four middle and two high schools, and in the Classical Studies Magnet Academy in Bridgeport. Carver programs compliment regular school day learning with literacy, math, technology, engineering, science, arts, wellness and other programming after school. Our multi-tiered, project-based, hands-on personalized learning uses an array of resources to help each student excel in school and life. And we do all of this in a culture of joy and praise.





Financial Review July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

As a result of the pandemic, at no cost to our families, we virtually sustained our after school academic, enrichment and wellness programming in all our K-12 Norwalk Public Schools, Side By Side Charter School, the Carver Community Center, and the Classical Studies Magnet Academy in Bridgeport.

Carver consistently receives the highest marks from the nation's most trusted nonprofit rating agencies, such as Charity Navigator, Guidestar, and Great Nonprofits.

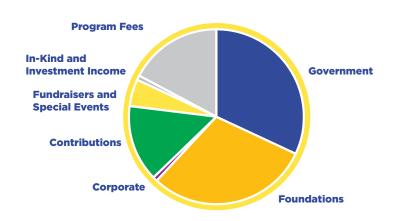
Carver is recognized for executing our mission in a fiscally responsible way while adhering to good governance and other best practices. We have earned these scores for our Financial Health and our Accountability & Transparency. A small fraction of the thousands of charities rated by Charity Navigator, for example, have earned their highest rating.

Audited financials for year ending June 30, 2020

Total Assets:	\$3,922,861
Total Revenue:	\$5,019,241
Current Liabilities:	\$846,955
Total Expenses:	\$5,193,428
Net Assets:	\$3,075,906

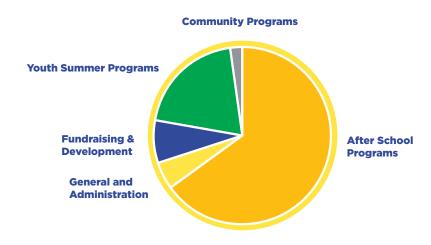
Audited 2019-2020 Revenue

\$5.019.241



Audited 2019-2020 Expenses

\$5,193,428



Our Mission Partners

We asked for your help, and you generously gave it! People, foundations, companies, the City of Norwalk, and state and federal donors entrusted Carver with the many gifts listed below. Many more gave in-kind gifts that are not listed but are just as deeply appreciated. Many hundreds of volunteers also gave of their time and talent. Together, We Are Carver! To the world you are one person; to each Carver scholar you are the world. Thank you!

Carver Stars: \$100,000+

21st Century Learning Centers

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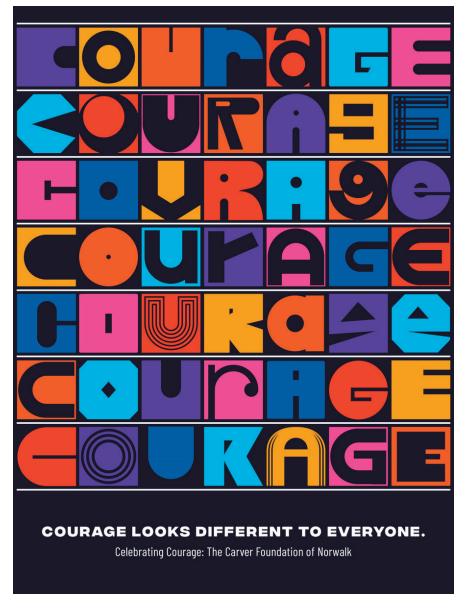
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Our virtual gala is at CelebratingCourage.org, Thursday, June 24, 2021. Please join us! Honoring our 2020 and 2021 Child of America honorees and many more exemplars of courage!

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